

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"VENDING MACHINE WITH IMPROVED COIN BOX AND SUPPLEMENTAL BASE SUPPORT FOR UNLOADING EXCESS TO THE BOX"

Case No. 072395.00002, the specification of which

(check X one) is attached hereto.
was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent Office all information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.¹

I do not know and do not believe this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and I believe that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as identified below:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Number	Country	Date
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and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the above listed application on which priority is claimed:

¹ (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A *prima facie* case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

Prior Foreign Application(s)
Number **Country** **Date**

If no priority is claimed, I have identified all foreign patent applications filed prior to this application:

Prior Foreign Application(s)
Number **Country** **Date**

And I hereby appoint Todd S. Parkhurst (26,494), Lewis T. Steadman, Sr. (17,074) and Anderson L. Baldy (40,496), all members of the firm of Holland & Knight LLP
Telephone: (312) 263-3600

as my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and direct that all correspondence be forwarded to:

**Holland & Knight LLP
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60603**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor **Richard K. Bolen**

Inventor's signature Wharly K. John Date 9/24/01
Residence 4000 Clubhouse Drive, Champaign, IL 61822
Citizenship United States
Post Office Address

**Full name of second joint inventor,
(if any)**

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

**Full name of third joint inventor,
(if any) _____**

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Applicant(s) or Patentee(s) Richard K. Bolen Attorney's
Serial or Patent No.: 09/965,999 Docket No.: 072395.00002
Filed or Issued: September 28, 2001
For: "VENDING MACHINE WITH IMPROVED COIN BOX AND SUPPLEMENTAL BASE SUPPORT FOR UNLOADING ACCESS TO THE BOX"

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below:
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN THE NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION
ADDRESS OF CONCERN 922 East Armstrong Avenue
Morris, IL 60450

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention entitled: "VENDING MACHINE WITH IMPROVED COIN BOX AND SUPPLEMENTAL BASE SUPPORT FOR UNLOADING ACCESS TO THE BOX"
by inventor(s): Richard K. Bolen
described in

the specification filed herewith
 application Serial No. 09/965,999, filed September 28, 2001
 Patent No. , issued

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

NAME
ADDRESS

INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
NAME
ADDRESS

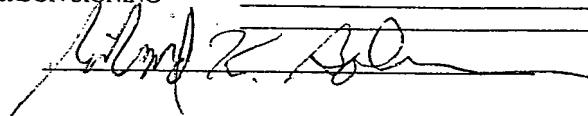
INDIVIDUAL SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date and which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Richard K. Bolen
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER President
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING

SIGNATURE



DATE

11/15/01